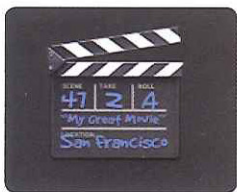


Tutorial: Add a voiceover in GarageBand

GarageBand is renowned for its musical capabilities, but it can also turn its hand to editing audio for movies



Task: Use GarageBand to add a voiceover to a movie

Difficulty: Intermediate

Time needed: 30 minutes

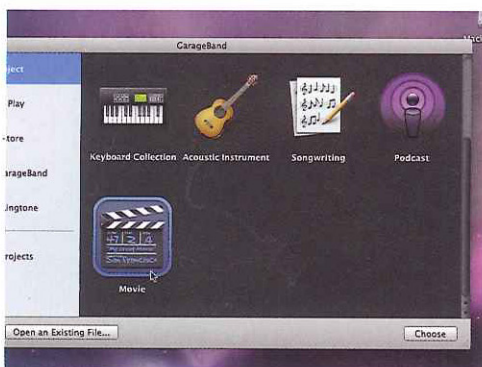


The Precision Editor in iMovie '09 is a valuable tool. However, there may still be occasions when you need to go beyond iMovie's audio editing capabilities.

Under these circumstances it's time to make use of the extra flexibility in GarageBand '09. Dragging a movie onto GarageBand's Movie track brings up a timeline of thumbnails and an audio track, which can be chopped around. When you combine this with the software's main function as a digital audio workstation, the creative possibilities take a leap beyond anything you can do in iMovie, making GarageBand a very credible final step in the movie-making process.



Step-by-step GarageBand Add a voiceover to your movie projects



1: Launch GarageBand

Open GarageBand and choose the Movie option from the new-look screen. Type a name and choose a Save location in the subsequent dialog box.



2: Import movie

Open the media browser and locate the movie file you wish to work on. Drag it to the movie track to import it into GarageBand.



3: Mute or delete original audio

If required, mute the original soundtrack by clicking the Mute button, or delete it altogether by selecting it and pressing the Backspace key.



4: Create new record track

Click the plus button and select the Real Instrument option. Select an input source from the pop-up menu in the Track Info pane.



5: Record vocal

Double-click the track name to rename it. Disable the metronome in the Control menu, then click the Record button and begin recording your voiceover.



6: Locate edit point

Choose 'Show Time in LCD' from the Control menu. Zoom in close with the Zoom slider and position the playhead at the required edit point.



Edit audio in GarageBand

Add a voiceover to a movie project in GarageBand

Knowledge base

Automation

One area where GarageBand offers more flexibility over iMovie's precision editor is volume automation. The automation system, accessed by clicking the small triangle in the track header, is a great way to vary the level of audio during the duration of a clip. Just click on the control curve to create nodes with which to alter the volume level – simple!

Use your head

Use the playhead as a visual guide when you're pinpointing exact edit positions and lining up regions

Align playheads

Click this button to line up the playheads in the timeline and edit windows. This helps to keep track of things when editing while fully zoomed in

Knowledge base

Zoom zoom

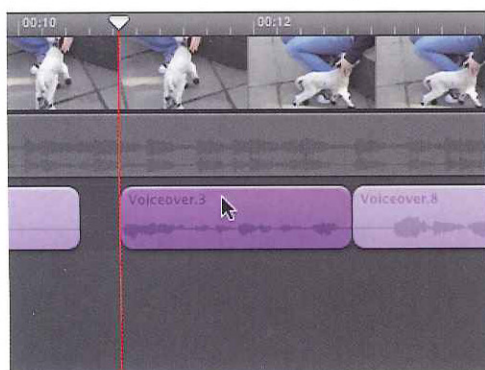
Changing the LCD display from Bars And Beats to Time view allows you to attain a greater degree of accuracy when fully zoomed in. The zoom sliders are the long sliders found at the bottom-left of both the Arrange window track list and Edit Pane sections. Slide them left to zoom out and right to zoom in.

Pane relief

Turn off the Track Info pane by clicking the 'i' button to give you more space to edit waveforms in the Edit pane

Movie preview

Click the thumbnail in the movie track's header to bring up a resizable viewing window in which to monitor playback of your movie. Resize it by dragging the lower-right corner



7: Split region

Split the region by pressing the Cmd+T key command. Split it again, then grab the audio clip and drag it to the desired location.



8: Add music/FX

As an added bonus, you get to use GarageBand's fully featured sequencer functions to add any extra music or sound effects to your project.



9: Export movie

From the Share menu, it's possible to export your finished movie to iTunes, iWeb or iDVD, or to hard disk. Just select an option.